

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-155, 425, and 426 have been previously cancelled. Claims 251 and 252 have been amended to depend from independent claim 156 instead of independent claim 245 in order to avoid duplicate claiming with respect to claims 246 and 247. Claims 156-250, 253-424, and 427-522 are also currently pending in this case. No new matter has been added by these amendments to the claims.

Claims 156, 157, 160, 164, 165, 167, 169, 172, 174, 175, 177, 179, 182, 184, 185, 187, 220, 222, 223, 225, 229, 231, 232, 234, 236, 238, 239, 241, 245, 247, 248, 250, 252, 292, 295, 297, 299, 329, 332, 334, 335, 337, 342, 346, 348, 349, 351, 356, 360, 361, 363, 365, 405, 409, 411, 413, 419, 421, 423, 427, 433, and 437 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mauger U.S. Patent 4,966,663 (hereinafter "Mauger '663").

Claims 158, 159, 162, 163, 170, 171, 180, 181, 224, 227, 228, 230, 240, 243, 244, 246, 251, 254, 255, 267, 269, 272, 275, 278, 287, 290, 293, 294, 330, 331, 343, 344, 350, 357-359, 364, 406, 407, 452, 457, 462, 475, 480, 485, 490, 503, 508, and 513 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger et al. U.S. Patent 4,919,749 (hereinafter "Mauger '749").

Claims 161, 173, 183, 233, 237, 249, 268, 271, 274, 277, 286, 289, 296, 302, 333, 347, 362, 408, 410, 412, 414, 420, 422, 424, 428, 434, 436, 438, 442-445, 449, 451, 454, 456, 459, 461, 472, 474, 477, 479, 482, 484, 487, 489, 500, 502, 505, 507, 510, and 512 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Leedy U.S. Patent 4,924,589 (hereinafter "Leedy").

Claims 166, 168, 176, 178, 186, 188, 221, 226, 235, 242, 253, 298, 300, 336, 338, 345, 352, and 366 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Shimizu et al. U.S. Patent 4,618,397 (hereinafter "Shimizu").

Claims 189, 192, 194, 196, 207-212, 256-261, 265, 266, 305, 306, 310, 312, 314, 320-322, 325, 340, 341, 354, 355, 367, 368, 370, 373, 375, 377, 380, 381, 415, 429, 431, 439, 448, 453, 458, 466, 471, 476, 481, 486, 494, 498, 499, 504, 509, and 517 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein U.S. Patent 4,070,230 (hereinafter "Stein").

Claims 190, 191, 308, 309, 318, 323, 324, 328, 371, and 372 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Mauger '749.

Claims 193, 280, 311, 317, 326, 327, 374, 416, 430, 432, 440, 446, 463, 465, 491, 493, 495, 497, 514, and 516 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Leedy.

Claims 195, 197, 313, 315, 376, and 378 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Shimizu.

Claims 198, 201, 203, 205, 382, 385, 387, 389, 417, and 441 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans et al. U.S. Patent 4,835,765 (hereinafter "Bergmans").

Claims 199, 200, 284, 383, and 384 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Mauger '749.

Claims 202, 283, 386, 418, 442, 447, 467, 519, and 521 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Leedy.

Claims 204, 206, 388, and 390 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Shimizu.

Claims 213, 214, 392, and 393 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Stein.

Claims 215-217, 262-264, 270, 273, 276, 279, 288, 291, 301, 339, 353, and 369 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and further in view of Shimizu.

Claims 218, 282, 316, 319, and 379 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Mauger '749.

Claims 219, 285, and 391 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Mauger '749, and further in view of Shimizu.

Claim 304 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and Shimizu, and further in view of Leedy.

Claim 303 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749

and further in view of Stevenson U.S. Patent 4,721,938
(hereinafter "Stevenson").

Claims 394, 450, 455, 460, 473, 478, 483, 488, 501, 506, and 511 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stevenson.

Claims 401, 464, 492, 496, and 515 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Stevenson.

Claims 468 and 520 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Stevenson.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

Summary of March 15, 2005 Telephone Conversation with Examiner

On March 15, 2005, agents for applicant Jeffrey D. Mullen (Registration No. 52,056) and Jeffrey C. Aldridge (Registration No. 51, 390) conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Pamela E. Perkins, during which the merits of the case were discussed. Particularly, applicant contended that neither Mauger '663 nor Mauger '749, used either alone or in combination, showed nor suggested the use of "dielectric" materials -- let alone the use of "stress-controlled dielectric," "low stress dielectric," or "elastic dielectric" materials for forming a "layer" or "membrane," as claimed in applicant's independent claims 156, 169, 179, 189, 198, 220, 234, 245, 292, 307, 322, 329, 342, 356, 370, and 382. This is so even though Mauger '749 discloses the use of a low stress dielectric in the fabrication of a silicon shadow mask.

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Examiner Perkins responded by stating that she would need time to analyze our comments and conduct an additional search.

Summary of March 30, 2005 Telephone Conversation with Examiner

On March 30, 2005, agent for applicant Jeffrey D. Mullen (Registration No. 52,056) received a call from Examiner Pamela E. Perkins. Examiner Perkins noted that a response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2004 that conformed with the comments presented on March 15, 2005 would place the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicant's Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended dependant claims 251 and 252 such that each now depends from independent claim 156 instead of independent claim 245 in order to avoid duplicate claiming with respect to dependant claims 246 and 247 which still depend from independent claim 245. No new matter has been added by these amendments to the claims.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement citing a number of additional references. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the currently pending claims in view of these newly cited references.

The Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 156, 157, 160, 164, 165, 167, 169, 172, 174, 175, 177, 179, 182, 184, 185, 187, 220, 222, 223, 225, 229, 231, 232, 234, 236, 238, 239, 241, 245, 247, 248, 250, 252, 292, 295, 297, 299, 329, 332, 334, 335, 337, 342, 346, 348, 349, 351, 356, 360, 361, 363, 365, 405, 409, 411, 413, 419, 421, 423, 427, 433, and 437 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mauger '663. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As defined by each of applicant's independent claims 156 and 220, a method of making an integrated circuit comprises forming a "stress-controlled dielectric membrane" overlying "circuit devices" or "active devices," respectively. As defined by each of applicant's independent claims 169, 179, 234, and 245, a method of making an integrated circuit comprises forming a "stress-controlled dielectric layer." As defined by applicant's independent claim 292, a method of making an integrated circuit comprises forming a "low stress dielectric layer" overlying "circuit devices." As defined by each of applicant's independent claims 329, 342, and 356, a method of making an integrated circuit comprises forming an "elastic dielectric layer" overlying "circuit devices" or "active devices," respectively.

On page 2, lines 15 and 16 of the Office Action of December 17, 2004, the Examiner stated that Mauger '663 anticipates each of applicant's independent claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356 by teaching "an elastic low stress/stress-controlled dielectric membrane/layer (12) overlying the circuit devices."

Nowhere, however, does Mauger '663 show or suggest the use of "dielectric" materials -- let alone the use of "stress-controlled dielectric," "low stress dielectric," or "elastic dielectric" materials for forming a "layer" or "membrane," as included in applicant's independent claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356. Instead, Mauger '663 describes making a stress-controlled "silicon membrane," (Mauger '663, column 3, line 38).

For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, are allowable over Mauger '663, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

The Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103

Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749

Claims 158, 159, 162, 163, 170, 171, 180, 181, 224, 227, 228, 230, 240, 243, 244, 246, 251, 254, 255, 267, 269, 272, 275, 278, 287, 290, 293, 294, 330, 331, 343, 344, 350, 357-359, 364, 406, 407, 452, 457, 462, 475, 480, 485, 490, 503, 508, and 513 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 158, 159, 162, 163, 170, 171, 180, 181, 224, 227, 228, 230, 240, 243, 244, 246, 251, 254, 255, 267, 269, 272, 275, 278,

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287, 290, 293, 294, 330, 331, 343, 344, 350, 357-359, 364, 406, 407, 452, 457, 462, 475, 480, 485, 490, 503, 508, and 513, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Leedy

Claims 161, 173, 183, 233, 237, 249, 268, 271, 274, 277, 286, 289, 296, 302, 333, 347, 362, 408, 410, 412, 414, 420, 422, 424, 428, 434, 436, 438, 442-445, 449, 451, 454, 456, 459, 461, 472, 474, 477, 479, 482, 484, 487, 489, 500, 502, 505, 507, 510, and 512 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Leedy.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 161, 173, 183, 233, 237, 249, 268, 271, 274, 277, 286, 289, 296, 302, 333, 347, 362, 408, 410, 412, 414, 420, 422, 424, 428, 434, 436, 438, 442-445, 449, 451, 454, 456, 459, 461, 472, 474, 477, 479, 482, 484, 487, 489, 500, 502, 505, 507, 510, and 512, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Leedy, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Shimizu

Claims 166, 168, 176, 178, 186, 188, 221, 226, 235, 242, 253, 298, 300, 336, 338, 345, 352, and 366 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Shimizu.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 166, 168, 176, 178, 186, 188, 221, 226, 235, 242, 253, 298, 300, 336, 338, 345, 352, and 366, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Shimizu, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Stein

Claims 189, 192, 194, 196, 207-212, 256-261, 265, 266, 305, 306, 310, 312, 314, 320-322, 325, 340, 341, 354, 355, 367, 368, 370, 373, 375, 377, 380, 381, 415, 429, 431, 439, 448, 453, 458, 466, 471, 476, 481, 486, 494, 498, 499, 504, 509, and 517 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein.

Applicant's independent claim 189 defines a method of using an integrated circuit having a "stress-controlled dielectric layer," applicant's independent claim 322 defines a method comprising forming a "low stress dielectric layer," and applicant's independent claim 370 defines a method of using an integrated circuit having an "elastic dielectric layer." As applicant has pointed out above, Mauger '663 does not show or suggest any such "dielectric layer." For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 156, 169, 179, 189, 220, 234, 245, 292, 322, 329, 342, 356, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 192, 194, 196, 207-212, 256-261, 265, 266, 305, 306, 310, 312, 314, 320, 321, 325, 340, 341, 354, 355, 367, 368, 373, 375, 377, 380, 381, 415, 429, 431, 439, 448,

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453, 458, 466, 471, 476, 481, 486, 494, 498, 499, 504, 509, and 517, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Stein and Mauger '749

Claims 190, 191, 308, 309, 318, 323, 324, 328, 371, and 372 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Mauger '749.

Applicant's independent claim 307 defines a method comprising forming a "low stress dielectric layer." As applicant has pointed out above, Mauger '663 does not show or suggest any such "dielectric layer." For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 189, 307, 322, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 190, 191, 308, 309, 318, 323, 324, 328, 371, and 372, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Mauger '749, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Stein and Leedy

Claims 193, 280, 311, 317, 326, 327, 374, 416, 430, 432, 440, 446, 463, 465, 491, 493, 495, 497, 514, and 516 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and Leedy.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 189, 307, 322, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 189, 307, 322, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 193, 280, 311, 317, 326, 327, 374, 416, 430, 432, 440, 446, 463, 465, 491, 493, 495, 497, 514, and 516, are allowable

over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Leedy, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Stein and Shimizu

Claims 195, 197, 313, 315, 376, and 378 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and Shimizu.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 189, 307, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 189, 307, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 195, 197, 313, 315, 376, and 378, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Shimizu, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans

Claims 198, 201, 203, 205, 382, 385, 387, 389, 417, and 441 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans.

Applicant's independent claim 198 defines a method of using an integrated circuit having a "stress-controlled dielectric layer." As applicant has pointed out above, Mauger '663 does not show or suggest any such "dielectric layer." While Mauger '749 discloses the use of a "SiO₂ masking layer" on an upper surface of a "silicon membrane" (see, Mauger '749, column 6, lines 34-68), and discloses that "thermal annealing" of the SiO₂ masking layer is done to achieve an internal tensile stress value of less than approximately "1x10⁸ dynes/cm²," the SiO₂ masking layer is removed from the

silicon membrane to allow the silicon membrane to be used as a shadow mask, (see, Mauger '749, column 5, line 39 through column 6, line 17). For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 201, 203, 205, 382, 385, 387, 389, 417, and 441, are allowable over either Mauger '663 or Mauger '749 in view of Bergmans, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Mauger '749

Claims 199, 200, 284, 383, and 384 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Mauger '749.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 199, 200, 284, 383, and 384, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Mauger '749, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Leedy

Claims 202, 283, 386, 418, 442, 447, 467, 519, and 521 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Leedy.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 202, 283, 386, 418, 442, 447, 467, 519, and 521, are allowable over Mauger '663 in

view of Bergmans and further in view of Leedy, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Shimizu

Claims 204, 206, 388, and 390 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Shimizu.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 204, 206, 388, and 390, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Shimizu, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Stein

Claims 213, 214, 392, and 393 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Stein.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 213, 214, 392, and 393, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Stein, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and Shimizu

Claims 215-217, 262-264, 270, 273, 276, 279, 288, 291, 301, 339, 353, and 369 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and Shimizu.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 215-217, 262-264, 270, 273, 276, 279, 288, 291, 301, 339, 353, and 369, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and further in view of Shimizu, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Stein, Mauger '749, and Shimizu

Claims 218, 282, 316, 319, and 379 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein, Mauger '749, and Shimizu.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 189, 307, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 189, 307, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 218, 282, 316, 319, and 379, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein, Mauger '749, and further in view of Shimizu, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans, Mauger '749, and Shimizu

Claims 219, 285, and 391 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans, Mauger '749, and Shimizu.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 219, 285, and 391, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans, Mauger '749, and further in view of Shimizu, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749, Shimizu, and Leedy

Claim 304 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and Shimizu, and further in view of Leedy.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claim 292, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 292, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claim 304, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749, Shimizu, and further in view of Leedy, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and Stevenson

Claim 303 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749 and further in view of Stevenson.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claim 292, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 292, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claim 303, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Mauger '749, and further in view of Stevenson, and

that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Stevenson

Claims 394, 450, 455, 460, 473, 478, 483, 488, 501, 506, and 511 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stevenson.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 156, 169, 179, 220, 234, 245, 292, 329, 342, and 356, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 394, 450, 455, 460, 473, 478, 483, 488, 501, 506, and 511, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Stevenson, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Mauger '663 in view of Stein and Stevenson

Claims 401, 464, 492, 496, and 515 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Stevenson.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 189, 307, 322, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 189, 307, 322, and 370, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 401, 464, 492, 496, and 515, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Stein and further in view of Stevenson, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

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Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and Stevenson

Claims 468 and 520 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Stevenson.

As applicant has pointed out above, independent claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over Mauger '663. For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 198 and 382, and any claims dependant therefrom, including claims 468 and 520, are allowable over Mauger '663 in view of Bergmans and further in view of Stevenson, and that the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 156-424 and 427-522 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Aldridge
Registration No. 51,390
Agent for Applicant
FISH & NEAVE IP GROUP
ROPES & GRAY LLP
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
Tel.: (212) 596-9000
Fax: (212) 596-9090